

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 301543Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7461
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, GE
SUBJECT: CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: BERLIN 1920

1. THE 8TH PLENUM OF THE SED CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MET IN EAST BERLIN MAY 24 AND 25. THE
HIGHLIGHT OF THE MEETING WAS A REPORT BY SED GENERAL
SECRETARY HONECKER. THERE WERE ALSO STATEMENTS
BY 26 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (REPORTED SEPTELS).

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2. IN ADDITION TO HEARING THESE REPORTS, THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CARRY OUT ELECTION
OF PARTY OFFICIALS OF THE BASIC, PRECINCT AND
DISTRICT PARTY ORGANIZATIONS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1, 1978
AND FEBRUARY 18, 1979.

3. JOACHIM HERRMANN, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE

POLITBURO AND PARTY SECRETARY, WAS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO. AMONG OTHERS, HERBERT HAEBER WAS ELECTED A FULL MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

4. COMMENT: THE CALL FOR PARTY ELECTIONS IS ROUTINE AS THESE MUST TAKE PLACE AT LEAST TWICE IN ANY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. THE ELECTION OF HERMANN, WHO SUCCEEDED THE LATE WERNER LAMBERZ AS PARTY SECRETARY FOR AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA, TO FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLITBURO WAS EXPECTED (REFTEL) AND REPRESENTS A CONSOLIDATION OF HONECKER'S POSITION IN THE POLITBURO. END COMMENT.

5. HERBERT HAEBER IS CHIEF OF THE WEST GERMAN DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ONE-TIME DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. HAEBER WAS AT ONE TIME BEING MENTIONED AS A SUCCESSOR TO MICHAEL KOHL AS GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN. AMONG OTHERS ALSO MADE FULL MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS GENERAL HORST STECHBARTH, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF THE ARMY. BOLEN

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